करने की कोशिश करते हैं। कहीं-कहीं जेनरेटर्स के भी लगातार चलने की वजह से, जो कि एक टेक्निकल चीज है, कहीं अगर जेनरेटर खराब हो गया, तो कुछ व्यवस्था होती है, उसमें भी हम लोग सुधार करने का प्रयास करते हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने जो मोबाइल और केबल की बात की, निश्चित रूप से केबल बिछाने में वहां मुश्किल है। मैं भी उसी जिले से आता हूं, जहां से माननीय सदस्य आते हैं। हम लोग चाहते हैं कि जो वायरलेस है, यह आजकल के च्वायस की टेक्नोलॉजी है। हम कम-से-कम अभी माननीय सदस्य की जानकारी के लिए कहते हैं कि उनके जिले में अभी हम लोग मोबाइल के लगभग 40 से अधिक नये टावर्स दो महीने के अंदर ...(व्यवधान).... इन्हीं सब कमियों की वजह से ...(व्यवधान)....

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: आपको वहां कुछ उद्घाटन भी करना है। जाकर उद्घाटन कर दीजिए .. .(व्यवधान)....

डा॰ शकील अहमद: माननीय सदस्य का जो इलाका है, उसमें हम लोग निश्चित रूप से उद्घाटन भी करेंगे। वहां अभी 40 से ज्यादा मोबाइल के टावर्स लगाने हैं।

*602. [*The Questioner (Shri Sanjay Raut) was absent. For answer vide page* 40]

MoU with States for capacity building programme for PRIS

*603. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has signed an MoU with the States to launch an effective capacity building programme for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which in turn would promote and implement the drinking water schemes;

(b) if so, the schemes that are to be implemented by PRIs and how much financial outlay is earmarked for the same in the year 2007-08;

(c) whether the PRIs would be entrusted with the task of subsequent operation and maintenance of the scheme;

(d) if so, how much additional work force would be roped in; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir, the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has signed Joint Statements of Conclusions (MoUs) with eighteen States and three Union Territories which *inter alia,* relate also to effective capacity-building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). As PRIs have been identified as principal autorities for planning and implementing village-level drinking water schemes, capacity-building under the MoUs is likely to contribute to this sector as well.

More specifically, the Department of Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural development supplements State Government efforts at providing rural drinking water supply (which is a State subject) with financial and technical assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme" whose financial allocation has been raised to Rs. 6,500 crore from Rs. 4,560 crore in the previous financial year. In 2003, guidelines were issued for CSS Swajaldhara (since merged into CSS RWSP) which provide for an MoU between GOI and State Governments.

(b) However, prior to the signing of any MoU, States were to undertake a Sector Assessment of the rural water supply and sanitation sector and develop a Vision Statement, followed by a comprehensive State Policy. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to 11 States. Any MoU would be signed only on the basis of an Agreed Action Framework. A State Ministers Conference (Jan-Feb, 2006) advised that all State Governments should sign MoUs before the commencement of the 11th Plan, in order to commit States to an Action Plan for decentralized service delivery and involvement of communities within a mutually agreed timeframe. The current position, State-wise, on these MoUs has been obtained and is annexed as Statement-I. (*See* below).

(c) As per present indication from the Department of Drinking Water Supply, each state is to take a view on the transfer of O&M to PRIs. Under ARWSP, 15% of the state allocation can be utilized for Operation and Maintenance. In the circumstances, Ministry of Panchayati Raj draws attention to *two additonal sources of funds,* made available by GOI, that are to be deployed by State Government towards the sector of drinking water supply. *First,* the untied funds (Rs. 20,000 cr. between 2005-10)

accruing to state governments, as per recommendation of the 12th Finance Commission to supplement the resources of Panchayats. The TFC has recommended that in the deployment of these funds, priority may be given to improve the service delivery by the Panchayats in respect of water supply and sanitation. The TFC further added that the water supply assets created under the Swajaldhara Programme could be taken over and maintained with the help of these grants. Ministry of Panchayati Raj monitors and reviews the release of the TFC grant money to state Governments. *Second,* Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also administering the release of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), and has developed detailed Guidelines to guide state governments to access and deploy these untied grants. This week Ministry of Panchayati Raj has once again drawn the attention of State Government that the BRGF Guidelines provide opportunities for gap filling in Bharat Nirman. Among the selected components of Bharat Nirman highlighted for action, and incorporated in the Guidelines is the adoption of appropriate technology options by Panchayats for drinking water supply in hilly and tribal areas, where conventional pump and pipe water supply does not deliver. These include gravity-fed systems and wells. We have advised state governments that Village Panchayats may be provided support under BRGF to take over stand-alone pipe water supply schemes and undertake systems upgrading. The present position is that wherever State Governments have transferred and entrusted the functions of rural water supply to PRIs, the operation and maintenance functions are being performed and implemented by these Panchayats.

(d) and (e) Under the ARWSP, 15% of the ARWSP resources are earmarked for the O&M functions. If the O&M functions are devolved to three tiers of Panchayats through Activity Mapping and this is followed up by appropriate State Government Notifications from the concerned Departments, then the Panchayats would develop sustainable and monitorable systems for regular O&M, particularly in view of the additional resources now made available to them. This would include transfer of fully trained functionaries from the line departments concerned. Panchayats could also appoint additional technical supervisory staff as per requirement. Panchayats would need to develop estimates of the additional workforce required in consultation with the State Departments concerned.

Statement-I

The State-wise current position of MoUs to be signed by the Department of Drinking Water Supply with the State Governments with regard to Rural Water Supply Programmes:

State	Present Status of Sector Status Studies (SSS)
1	2
1. Maharashtra	The State Government has finalized Vision Statement for Water supply and Sanitation sector up to 2010 and communicated their Willingness to sign the MoU with GoI. Status: Willing to sign MoU.
2. Karnataka	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2004 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU
3. Andhra Pradesh	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2004 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.
4. Goa	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in January, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.

1	2
5. Tamil Nadu	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.
6. Bihar	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in December, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.
7. Uttaranchal	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.
8. Uttar Pradesh	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. MoU pending with DDWS for signature
9. Rajasthan	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in October, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU.

1	2
10. Jharkhand	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in November, 2005 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU.
	Status: Study reviewed. MoU pending with DDWS for signature
11. Punjab	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in January, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU.
	Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU
12. West Bengal	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in July, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU.
	Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU
13. Arunachal Pradesh	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in July, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU.
	Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU
14. Tripura	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in June, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU.
	Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU

1	2
15. Assam	Sector Status Study received from the State. Status: Study to be reviewed.
16. Orissa	Sector Status Study received from the State. Status: Study to be reviewed.
17. Kerala	Sector Status Study was reviewed with the State in July, 2006 and the State asked to prepare for their MoU. Status: Study reviewed. Awaiting willingness for MoU
18. Gujarat	Sector Status Study received from the State. Status: Study to be reviewed.
19. Haryana	WSP-SA is working on the Sector Status Study and the first draft of the Sector Status Study is likely to be completed by end of July, 2007.
20. Chhattisgarh	CRISIL has been contracted by the State. Likely to submit by July, 2007.
21. Madhya Pradesh	Scott Wilson has been contracted by the State. Likely to submit by July, 2007.
22. Himachal Pradesh	Feedback Ventures has been contracted by the State. Likely to submit by September, 2007.

1		2
23.	Jammu and Kashmir	ORG Nielson has been contracted by the State. Likely to submit by September, 2007.
24.	Nagaland	The World Bank has completed the Study and is pending with the State for acceptance.
25.	Manipur	The World Bank has completed the Study and is pending with the State for acceptance.
26.	Mizoram	The World Bank has completed the Study and is pending with the State for acceptance.
27.	Sikkim	WSP has been contracted by the State in August, 2006. Likely to submit by September, 2007.
28.	Meghalaya	No feedback.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I have got quite a lengthy answer from the hon. Minister. But I was under the impression that his reply would address rural development as such. Sir, it is a pernicious and a chronic problem which is affecting the country. Till today we are not able to provide potable water to every habitation in the rural areas. I want to put a specific, pointed supplementary to the hon. Minister. While entering into MoUs, is it a percondition to augment the financial position of the local Panchayats so as to provide potable water to the rural areas? That is one part of the question. There are a number of schemes and a lot of funds are available. Sir, when we are facing such a chronic problem in the villages, why don't you have clarity, why don't you have a unique scheme for this purpose? There is no proper delivery system; there is no proper monitoring system in the States, especially in the rural areas. I want to known from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is contemplating to bring out an effective mechanism so that this problem will be solved in the near future.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the hon. Member is right that this is a subject that pertains to the Ministry of Rural Development. But on the basis of the information that I have obtained from there, it would appear that in terms of the *Swajaldhara* guideline a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Government and the Government of India is a necessary pre-condition, at least, in respect of future funding to be contingent on the singning of these MoUs. The procedure that has been laid down for arriving at the MoUs is a fairly elaborate one. It involves the preparation of a vision statement by the State, an action plan and an agreed time frame for initiating and scaling up reforms. There are a number of issues to be addressed in this regard. While these are being done, we are now at a stage where four States have indicated that they are prepared to enter into an MoU, and several other States have completed much of the work, but their willingness to sign the MoU is still to be initimated. It is mostly the States in the North-East which are still to complete their sectoral surveys and then conduct review of those with the Government of India. In the meanwhile, it has been decided that the *Swajaldhara* Scheme will be merged with the existing Accerelated Rural Water Supply Scheme *w.e.f.* the 11th Plan which notionally began on the 1st of April, 2007. So, I think the fundamental point made by the hon. Member stands accepted by the Government of India that we need a clear scheme in which there is a clear delineation of the responsibilities of the delivery mechanism. And it is precisely because the delivery mechanism has not been adequate that of the seventy thousand crores of rupees which we have provided for drinking water supply since the First Five Year Plan, thirty thousand six hundred crores of rupees have been only in the Tenth Plan. There has been ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, this is Question Hour.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the hon. Minister is giving a detailed reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let him finish... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I will finish with one more sentence. Therefore, it is now widely accepted that unless and until we properly empower the Panchayat Raj Institutions and give them the proper kind of capacity building and training, we will not be able to effectively deliver the

system. So, as far as the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is concerned, we have already signed 21 MoUs with different States and Union Territories, and we have a major programme of capacity building at one crore per district for the 250 districts covered by the Backward Regions Grant Fund. But this will converge with these agreements, as and when these agreements are entered into by the Ministry of Rural Development with the State Governments concerned.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, generally our grievance is that the Ministers do not come prepared with answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is well prepared. He is more than prepared. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for that ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, my second supplementary is this. Sir, there is a pre-condition, it seems, that the States have to enter into MoUs before the commencement of the 11th Plan, *i.e.*, 2007. But till today, some States have not entered into MoUs. Will it disqualify them from getting the available funds from the Government of India?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the *Swajaldhara* Scheme now stands integrated into the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. At the moment, no State has entered into an MoU. Four of them have indicated a willingness to do so. And there are several others where all the preparatory work is complete but is is their wilingness to enter into such an MoU that is still to be communicated by the State Governments. So, we are progressing but perhaps progressing at a slower pace than is desirable. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, Andhra Pradesh is among the States. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, Andhra Pradesh is still. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are awaiting their willingness, the communication of their willingness to sign the MoU. The sector status study was reviewed three years ago in October, 2004 but they have still not communicated their willingness to sign the MoU.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो status का स्टेटमेंट दिया है, उसमें कहा है कि राज्य सरकारों के पास अधिकतर प्रपोजल अभी विचारणीय हैं और उनकी तरफ

से अभी उत्तर नहीं आया है। महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पानी की जो समस्या है उसके समाधान के लिए क्या आप राज्य सरकारों को उनका उत्तर और उनके प्रोजेक्ट देने के लिए कोई समयबद्ध सूचना देंगे, ताकि वे अपने प्रपोजल आपके पास समय से भेज सकें?

और मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग, जो इसी से संबंधित है, यह है कि जिन states की रिप्लाई आ चुकी है, उन states को implementation के लिए किस प्रकार की आप डायरेक्शंस देंगे ताकि उनकी समस्या का समाधान हो सके?

श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर: माननीय सभापति महोदय, जनवरी, 2006 में स्टेट मिनिस्टर्स का एक सम्मेलन हुआ था, जिसमें यह तय किया गया था कि इसे समयबद्ध रखने के लिए 11वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की शुरूआत से पहले ही हमें MoU का काम पूरा करना है, लेकिन वह अभी तक हुआ नहीं है और बीच में यह तय किया गया है कि 'स्वजल धारा' को वे Accelerated Water Supply Scheme में शामिल कर देंगे। हमारे पास जो MoU's आए हैं, अब हमें उन पर हस्ताक्षर करने की आवश्यकता है। इस सिलसिले में प्लानिंग कमीशन के जरिए तय किया गया है कि (EFC) Empowered Finance Committee जो है, वह इस विषय पर एक आखिरी फैसला लेगी कि किस आधार पर 'स्वजल धारा' को Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme में शामिल किया जाएगा और मेरे ख्याल में EFC की मीटिंग शीघ्र ही होने वाले है. उसके बाद हम भविष्य के बारे में स्पष्ट रूप से सदन को बता पाएंगे। फिलहाल परिस्थिति यह है कि चार राज्य हैं - महाराष्ट्र, उत्तर प्रदेश, झारखंड और त्रिपुरा, जिन्होंने हमें बताया है कि वे इन समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर करने को तैयार होंगे। ज्यादातर जो हमारे राज्य हैं, उन्होंने सैक्टर स्टडी तो पूरी कर ली है, लेकिन उनकी तरफ से अब तक अनुमति नहीं मिली है कि वे इस MoU पर अपने हस्ताक्षर करने को तैयार हैं।

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA: Sir, I would like to point out that this is the best approach to any programme of development in a country like ours especially on a platform that we are talking about — what we can do for *aam aadami*. I must congratulate the Minister for this. He is trying to do something, which all other Minister should do. The only point I would like to make to him is that he is talking about additional sources, additional funding the technical assistance to be provided. It is very welcome and it should work like that but there should also be an additional element about monitoring the performance and holding/scolding people who are not performing. What is the kind of action that can be taken against them? Sir, this is the most important part of any social development programme just as the funding, just as the technical design. We must also have a

method of monitoring reprimanding, and taking action against those who are not able to do it. I would like to know about this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, may I assure the hon. member that in the draft MoUs that have so far been prepared, there is ample provision for monitoring how the implementation of the scheme is going and once the MoUs are actually signed, I think, these monitoring mechanisms will be brought into play by the State Governments concerned.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, today one of the symbols of women's work or the burden of women's work is that of a women in rural India ferrying water in pots. I think, there is an assessment that five to six hours of a working woman's day in rural India is spent just on procuring water for the family. Therefore, we are discussing the importance of this scheme in this Question Hour. You have said that in the Backward Region Fund, certain guidelines have been given to the State Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these guideline include a survey of all the *adivasi* areas and hilly areas in which specifically, there is absolutely no potable drinking water supply. It so, what is the calculation made by the Government for the amount of funds which will be required, if you have a work time frame in which this programme is to be implemented. Can the Minister answer this?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I must clarify that the Backward Regions' Grant Fund is run by the Ministry of Pachayati Raj and the Accelerated Water Supply Scheme is run by the Ministry of Rural Development and the question asked by hon. Member covered both of these.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this is not...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: No, let me complete. You mixed the two up. I had to make this clarification.

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): अभी वह जवाब दे रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)

श्रीमती वृंदा कारत: लेकिन इस बीच उस खाई में तो औरत ही गिरती है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, आप पहले उन्हें बोल लेने दीजिए।

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The fact is that there are two different sets of schemes. The MoUs with respect to the *swajaldhara* will be State specific and therefore, if there are, as there are indeed, specific problem relating to hilly and mountainous terrain with respect to water supply, of course, those shall be specifically addressed in the State specific MoUs and there is ample provision for that to be done. However, it is very important for us to recognise that of all the money provided ever since the First Five Year Plan for drinking water supply which amounts to about Rs. 69,000 crore rupees, and as much as Rs. 30,600 crores has been in the Tenth Plan alone and in the current year we have substantially increased to well over Rs. 6000 crore, the allocation which last year was only at Rs. 4500 crore for accelerated water supply. So the specifics of the gender issues as well as the specifics of the geographical issues will be addressed and are being addressed in the sector specific studies that have been undertaken and eventually the MoUs will emerge from that.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: So, do the guidelines + include a survey? Is it time bound?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Yes, before the sector study is done and the vision statement prepared we cannot move the the MoU.

Prov!ding low cost housing finance

*604. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy for providing low cost housing finance to people from economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.